

— Command thy passions, and the gods obey."



THE ORACLE.

EXPONENT OF THE WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

A JOURNAL OF PROGRESS. DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF
HIGH IDEALS; DISCIPLES OF THE NEW ERA.

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struggle; there is but one world
to conquer—the victory over
self, the world within.

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THE ORACLE

EXPONENT OF THE WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF HIGH IDEALS.

VOL. 1.

BRIDGTON, MAINE, AUGUST, 1895.

No. 2.

AN IDEAL CENTRE.

A few of the "chosen" ones of earth are coming to realize the fact that happiness is not to be found in the frivolities of the present system of social life. Their rapidly developing natures demand something far higher and nobler than can be extracted from popular concerts, afternoon teas, or the daily papers! Having experienced the utmost pleasure which society has to offer, they still reach out for something which a certain attribute of the soul has not yet been supplied with. What is it?

Almost from the Beginning man has been engaged in experimenting. From the Garden of Eden period down to the present day he has ceaselessly run through the gamut of experience, testing each chromatic step with the care and patience worthy of a far better cause. His blind, on-rushing determination to find a quality of sense pleasure which would prove exhaustless has met with defeat after defeat, and now he stands as a half idiotic babe who has crept a long distance from the breast which, alone, could give it food.

That this sort of thing will sometime end is certain. That the DESIRE for further experience in these lines has already ceased with a great many advanced ones is very apparent. And to these people there comes a yearning for new conditions, new associations of a more congenial character and a new environment. This yearning must be answered, and we believe the time is very near at hand when it may be, fully and satisfactorily. To bring about this new order of things it is only necessary for a few people to relinquish the slight burdens which still hold them down in the service of the world and, together, form a Centre wherein Freedom and Liberty, in the spiritual signification of those divine words, may be the general order instead of the dark conditions of the day; conditions which are the result of this endless search for sensual pleasures, and the usual offspring of crime and misfortune in countless forms.

The door is open for those who have developed to that stage where they thoroughly feel this need for mutual association and

mutual PROTECTION. It needs a certain amount of courage to make the start. But courage is not wanting in the man whose avenues of escape from death are 'all cut off save one! If the People of High Ideals can see any other door through which to proceed to sure and lasting peace and usefulness, except that door which opens into the fields of God's own workshop, then they are advised by all means to take it.

The brick alleys of man's creation, and his dusty by-ways and darkened churches have thus far been sought more frequently than the broad arches of the forests, the moss-carpeted avenues of the fields and the temples which have mountain precipices for their walls and the blue sky for their covering. But have we not had enough of these baubles of man's construction and have we not yet convinced ourselves that they are but poor, feeble representatives of the realities which were ours from the first?

We are creatures of independence and free to choose whatsoever route we shall pursue. We may still persist in going counter to the current of the river of Divine purposes, but each foolish experiment serves but to keep us another day from that enjoyment which does not pall upon us and leave the cup half filled with dregs. We are at the end of one more century of failure and death. A century very much like its sixty predecessors which history tells us about. What has THIS hundred years done in the way of true service to man, as to the attributes of his being which call for something above ephemeral supply? It has been an age of invention. A period of experimentation. Improvements in the way of rapid transportation; improvements in the way of rapid communication by the principle of electricity; improvements in lighting. And yet, having enumerated everything which this century has given us in the way of invention and improvement, how puerile and bare of actual service it all appears! Of what actual good, after all the effort? We had all these things before, and they have been open and free to every child of God from the beginning, only they have been differently, and more perfectly, manifest. The only thing they lacked was the inventive twist with which man has sought to clothe them. And what has been the advantage of these inventions even from their own practical standpoint? We have railroads over which we can travel sixty miles per hour. Is it wise to make use of them if by thus rushing around like mad men

from place to place we lose a principle which invention cannot restore? Is it wise to gain ONE hour's time for the purpose of a possible advantage in a business transaction (which after all may work us more injury than good) when by so doing we shorten our natural lives by SEVERAL hours?

Ruskin says, "No changing of place at a hundred miles an hour, nor making of stuffs a thousand yards a minute, will make us one whit stronger, happier or wiser. There was always more in the world than men could see, walked they ever so slowly; they will see it no better for going fast. And they will at last, and soon too, find out that their grand inventions for conquering (as they think) space and time, do, in reality, conquer nothing; for space and time are, in their own essence, unconquerable, and besides did not want any sort of conquering; they wanted USING. A fool always wants to shorten space and time; a wise man wants to lengthen both. A fool wants to kill space and time; a wise man, first to gain them, then to animate them."

And so, while we do not in any way condemn the attempts of men to find peace through these methods (for they will accept nothing nobler for the present) yet we wish to indicate, in as forcible a manner as possible, the true way which is open to those who have arrived at the point of discontent with the SHADOWS of things. For such there await all the benefits which can possibly descend to the soul in human form. Benefits of an objective character and benefits of a subjective or spiritual character. It is merely a matter of inner resolution, and the thing is done. Determination to henceforth live in the ideal realms of being instead of upon the changing planes of life as established by man, and the remainder of the task will follow gradually and of necessity.

It is to be hoped that the next few years will see the establishment of not only one but several "Ideal Centres" as suggested in this brief article. North, east, west and south, they may be formed. The pioneers in each Centre need not be numerous. A mere handful is sufficient so long as they are determined and understand what they are trying to do. But it must be understood that it will be useless to seek a harmonious material environment with those who have not had that experience in the world which has brought wisdom, and victory over the evils which are so usually present in the human organism.

Oversight of this vital principle has brought crushing defeat to all the movements of this kind which have thus far been inaugurated.

It is a good time to act in this matter and we trust that each reader will meditate upon it. The time has come in our lives when we ought to be able to see the utter uselessness of this struggle with the world's animal forces, and the world's foolish and destructive ambitions. Those who truly desire to take part in and co-operate with God's first plans will certainly be privileged so to do, and the privilege will be mutual and agreeable with the handful of His children who are now waiting for the initial step to be taken by competent leader or leaders. Leaving the scenes which have brought us so little real service or happiness we cannot fail to prove true the words of the author quoted above, where he says that God has placed our happiness in the keeping of the little mosses of the wayside, and of the clouds of the firmament.

THE ORACLE.

"I have spoken,"

Ye have heard my voice
Since Egypt's golden dawn;

"I have spoken,"

Bid the world rejoice
For the glimpse of the coming morn.
Ye shall read my lessons in the skies;
Your questions bear you swift replies,
And in the soul so vast and deep,
The power of gods shall awake from sleep.

"I have spoken,"

Again to man
Shall the World's Desire give heed;

"I have spoken,"

And by my plan
Shall the thought bring forth the deed.
You will gaze in the eyes of perfect Love;
You will list for the soft coo of the dove,
And if you hear the ORACLE given
You will read aright the lore of Heaven.

June, 1895.

ABBIE A. GOULD.

THE NEW WOMAN.

I see nothing especially "new" in the principle which is manifesting itself through the daughters of Eve in their advancement upon the business world, their wielding of the pen,

their assertion of a place in politics, their entrance into the world of physical recreation and their quiet determination for reform in apparel. All this is merely a novel variation upon the same old theme of woman's adaptation and resignation to the inevitable. It is not a state which woman inherently chooses but a condition into which she has been driven by the "lords of creation." It is not a state which she has suddenly and unreasonably grasped but a condition which men, in their ignorance, and thoughtlessness and neglect have gradually, step by step, forced her to take in sheer desperation.

Through all the centuries, upon which history throws light, woman has been denied the place which belonged to her. She has been a servant, but a companion NEVER. She has been an instrument of passing pleasure, but never an accepted friend and adviser. She has been allowed the privilege of doing three fourths of the MANUAL duties of life, but never has been given even one fourth the reward. She has been put at the feet of her husband instead of next his heart, as divinely intended. And during all these long cycles she has kept her humble position, sometimes through fear, often through necessity but most usually because she had not developed to that stage where she could comprehend that she, too, was a child of God and as truly an heir of freedom as her lord and master!

By this unwise treatment of his helpmeet, man has missed the realization of the World's Desire. He has persistently withheld that something from woman which her being demands, and which she has finally been forced to seek in foreign channels, as illustrated in her present adaptation to conditions which have been made impossible to avoid.

And she will be happy, but man more miserable and hopeless than before. Through the coming years he will gradually awaken to the value of the prize which he has rejected and when his misery shall have been sufficient to arouse him to a keen appreciation of what he has lost, then Garden of Eden conditions will again be in order. For woman is ever ready to "forgive and forget" and cherishes no hardness of heart. She prefers one loyal heart in the home circle to the applause of the multitude, but if the one true heart is denied her then she must find, SOMEWHERE, that supply for which a ceaseless soul-demand is crying out.

Therefore, I repeat, we have no "new" women, but rather

a being whom we have crushed down into a dark corner of our lives, a despicable position from which there is but one crevice of escape. That crevice is taken by our wives and daughters from sheer necessity. All other avenues of escape we have carefully sealed with our ancient seals of Arrogance, Cruelty, Criticism, Faithlessness, and the other well known agents and powers peculiar to that sex which, up to the present time, has been endowed with the physical strength and moral weakness through which it has been easy to work every conceivable injustice against woman, and hold her unpitifully in the rut of dependence.

I thank heaven for the new woman. She is the harbinger of light in the 20th century. She is the herald of a new and brighter dawn, and let us hope that she is a manifestation which truly prophesies the advent of the NEW MAN.

"The smallest effort is not lost;
Each wavelet on the ocean toss'd
Aids in the ebb-tide or the flow;
Each rain-drop makes some floweret blow;
Each struggle lessens human woe."

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

Question.—You say, "if the mystery of sex is rightly solved, peace, happiness and full success will fill our lives." Now I wish to ask, has it ever been solved?

Answer.—It has; by every person who has arrived within sight of the Kingdom. Vibration tells you of practical methods to assist in this matter. In this lesson the solution of the mystery is given in as plain words as can be comprehended by the people in their present plane of development. The drills therein given and the suggestions in the West Gate Teacher's course cannot fail to make this matter more easily understood if consistency and faithfulness in practice is observed. It is only through persistency and determination and patience that the deeper significance of occult instruction may be wisely applied.

Q.—Why were the names of the signs of the zodiac applied to the parts of the body?

A.—Because of certain well known influences which moon, sun and planets have upon the several parts, as well as upon the organism in general, when said moon, sun, etc., are in corresponding sections of the heavens. These effects, or influences,

may be easily determined by each individual who will carefully watch his emotions, susceptibility to pain or disease, fortune or misfortune, etc., during one month's journey of the moon.

Q.—Where is the beginning of this great study?

A.—The “beginning” is that point in your existence where you feel a well defined aspiration for rising into higher conditions than the present order of affairs in the world can furnish.

Q.—What do I need to carry it on intelligently?

A.—If by “intelligently” you mean successfully, you need simply perseverance, faith, patience, and sacrifice of the weaknesses of the flesh. Guide and control your appetites and passions and do not be ruled by them. This great work is not so much a matter of KNOWING HOW, but rather an energy and steadiness of purpose in the direction of pushing forward and attaining full victory in the apparently SMALL things. The lessons and essays which we have given in the past treats all these points in careful detail, and we shall endeavor to present improvements, even, on what has already been given. The columns of the ORACLE will give all these things in due time.

OUR INHERITANCE

As sons and daughters of the Most High we are heirs of wealth which we cannot even slightly comprehend in our present stage of development. Treasures of a material nature sink into utter insignificance when compared with those eternal treasures which moth and rust cannot corrupt. I do not now refer to the rewards and benefits which are promised the faithful after the change called death, but rather the peace, the satisfaction and the inestimable power for good which may follow a wise guidance of our divine attributes HERE AND NOW, while habitating the human form.

A large and rapidly increasing body of people are approaching that mystic line which marks the boundaries of the Unseen. These people are distinguishable from all the rest of the world from the fact that they yearn for that which the “world” cannot give. They have, in a word, outgrown it and its so called pleasures and they demand something higher. This yearning and this demand is proof positive that there is a something

capable of fully satisfying the demand, and this, too, without necessitating the separation of soul and body.

In this great struggle with the dragon there are divers ways and by-ways which the imperfectly developed [sub-conscious- holds out to us. Among the most delusive may be mentioned the path along which may be found Clairvoyance, Psychometry, Healing, Communion with Spirits and the many other "gifts" which are usually reckoned of great service to mankind in general and the possessor in particular. I have no hesitation in calling them subterfuges of Evil, and impotent to bring a single phase of true service to the possessor or to the world at large. They are evil for this reason: they are given us in lieu of our true inheritance. They constitute the mess of pottage. The sub-consciousness presents these things for the purpose of determining what our ideal may be. If we accept these for the real, then we may retain them just so long as we demand nothing better. But if we take them as mere primary degrees, then look over and beyond for the WHOLE truth, the soul will find its rightful possession and will enter into its Peace,—its inheritance.

If a child is given a spool for a plaything and finds delight in that simple thing for a while, the parent is a wise one who allows the child to get all the satisfaction possible from it. But there are children who demand all sorts of cunning devices as bribes to keep them docile, and they keep on demanding until they get the things which satisfy the inner craving for the Something which in later years enlarges into the Kingdom of Heaven—the All.

As with the child, so it proves to be with the man and the woman. If these various "gifts" satisfy us then they may continue to do so until we ask for something better. The Creator would hardly offer us pearls while we exhibited so great contentment in the possession of pebbles. If these childish things filled our wants, then no better proof is wanting that we are as well off with them for the present as with the realities.

Our opportunity in this life within the flesh is to search out and possess the Kingdom of Heaven, and not to be deceived by the substitutes therefor, which are always present as advance guard and protectors of the Real. This ideal state is so common and free that we miss it through its very proximity. We look at reflections of things for our happiness instead of to the thing itself and thus continually fall short of those more sublimated planes which we may reach if we will.

THE DREAM LIFE.

During the period which we call sleep the interior nature is able to so vividly impress the mind as to produce effects which we afterwards remember. At this time the body and mind are usually in that state of passivity making it possible for this phenomenon of dreaming to occur, and the more harmonious

the functions of the body, the more reliable will become the messages from the subjective world. Dreams may determine the degree of our attainments. If our dreams are consistent with our reasoning powers then it may be known that we are approaching that line of balance between the lower and the higher nature which must be gained before permanent benefits can be realized. But if the dreams are flighty, disconnected and inconsistent, they denote lack of connection and harmony between the physical and the spiritual nature.

So long as this lack of reasonable connection is apparent, it is evident that we are upon a comparatively low plane of unfoldment. From the very familiarity of this question of dreaming we lose sight of its great importance, and thus miss one of the vital means for possessing a true knowledge of the mysteries of the unseen world. It is within the power of nearly all people to consciously enter this mystic domain which sleep makes possible. It is simply a matter of continued existence, with the mental faculties ALIVE, instead of dead and in-active. A mere matter of assertion of the will along the line of perpetual consciousness, instead of a giving up of the mind and body into the keeping of agents and forces concerning which we know nothing.

It is usually urged by those who first learn of this idea that such a state of existence, were it possible, would result in insomnia and finally would break down the constitution, mentally and physically. But such will never be the result if the principle is carried out with that degree of caution which we always advise. In the first place it is well to meditate occasionally upon the possibilities of the idea. This period of meditation should continue for at least a year and should be carried on in the most quiet manner possible, never interfering with the ordinary duties of life and never breaking in to interrupt intellectual pursuits of any description. The best time for these periods of meditation is the time immediately preceding sleep. At this hour allow the mind to calmly dwell upon the matter of consciousness in sleep,—or “Continued Consciousness” as the art is called in the W. G. Philosophy. But it is carefully advised that concentration, or deep and protracted thinking upon the subject is never indulged for at least twelve months after having first learned of the idea.

The plan is fraught with many points of interest which we cannot now enumerate. The best we can do is to call attention to it in a general way, then allow the student to act his own pleasure as to whether he will or will not follow it up with a fair spirit of investigation.

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—This issue of the ORACLE contains four pages more than the previous number. We shall increase the number of pages just as rapidly as our growing subscription list will allow, but shall always keep the price as at present, one dollar per year.

—We want reliable agents and will give them a good commission.

—The ORACLE is unique in many respects and stands as the sole representative and exponent of a new system of philosophy. This point alone will commend it to all people of an investigating turn of mind. Another point in its favor is this: it will never take issue, aggressively, with any other system, religious, scientific or philosophic. For we know that they all have a legitimate line of duty, and their own peculiar people to meet. We propose to exercise friendliness with them all. And besides, we haven't the time nor the space to argue. We are filled with our own work, and a vessel that is actually FULL has no room for side issue material. The truths we shall present through this journal have been made a part of our very life. Hence we may be pardoned for entering into their exposition with our whole heart.

—It may be well to state that we do not presume to "heal," in the usual understanding of that term. We are always ready and willing to tell the patient how to get well through his own efforts and his own divine inherent powers, but we never essay to do the thing for him directly. There are few ailments so hopeless that may not be corrected, provided the afflicted one has the DESIRE to become whole, and will USE and not abuse the life forces which will again flow into his organism when he has

once turned from sensational life to the guidance of the spirit within. The key to perfect health, as well as the key to all other seeming mysteries, is WITHIN, and the greatest service which a teacher can render is to show you that key and suggest its uses.

—For over two years we have edited the "Practical Occultism" department in the St. Louis Magazine. It is our intention to remain permanently connected with this well known journal. To those who desire sample copies send ten cents to the publishers, 2819 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. The ORACLE and the St. Louis Magazine will be sent to one address for \$1.25.

—We are always glad to answer, free of charge, questions of an astronomical character. As we have frequently asserted, study of the stars is one of the most inspiring and helpful adjuncts in the development of the interior life. Our star map (sent for ten cents) is a valuable aid to beginners.

We have published two beautiful songs of the new era, entitled "Fairy-land" and "True Love asks no Return." These songs are printed upon fine, heavy paper, from new plates. Price, 25 and 35 cents each. Both these songs will be sent to any subscriber who sends us one new name with one dollar. Or we will send either song to any person who sends us ten cents in stamps and the names and addresses of ten advanced thinkers.

—Physical Development, Vocal Exercises, and the bearing which these have upon interior growth and development are subjects which will be carefully treated as soon as the ORACLE can give them space. Mr. D. F. Hotchkiss, an advanced W. G. writer and student, will furnish this line of instruction.

—If our correspondents will be a little more careful in their methods of spelling "Bridgton," and will write name of the state IN FULL their communications will not be delayed so frequently. Many letters intended for this place have been addressed "Brighton," and some of them which have borne the abbreviation "Me." have been switched off into the State of Missouri, for the abbreviation of the latter state looks, in manuscript, very much like the "Me." of Maine. In view of these perplexing little delays we would suggest that you write "BRIDGTON, MAINE," and insure prompt and safe delivery.

—Any of the following named books may be obtained at

about half price. They are in good condition: The Hidden Way Across the Threshold; Science and Health; Psychic Science; Facing the Sphinx; The Way, the Truth and the Life; Natural Law in the Spiritual World. In ordering, please name a second choice, which we will send in case the one ordered has been disposed of. These books will be sold at prices ranging from 75 cents to \$1.50.

—July 2nd I saw the planet Venus almost continually from 11 a. m. until 2 p. m. At the latter hour I was busily engaged with other duties or could doubtless have followed her course up to the time of setting. The day was a remarkably bright and clear one, with numerous white clouds, with sharply defined edges, floating gracefully about. These clouds added to the interest of my observations, for the beautiful effect of the planet apparently darting in and out from behind these white cloud-banks, made up a celestial panorama which I have never seen before. The incident was all the more impressive, from the fact that it was entirely unexpected. I did not suppose that the planet was visible in broad daylight, at this period of its orbit. But while observing it the evening previous, I noted how exceedingly bright it was, and how many times it exceeded the star Regulus (beside which, slightly to the north, it closely lay) and the idea then occurred to me that it might be seen in daylight with a favoring atmosphere.

—“ORACLE No. 1 received. It has a healthy and promising appearance. I hope its subscription list will far exceed your most sanguine expectations.” . . . “True to principle the ORACLE will secure a firm and lasting grip upon the affections of the people.”—H. C. H. The little magazine has received unstinted praise from every hand. Had the first issue contained eighty pages instead of eight, the amount of praise could not have been more noticeable—certainly the QUALITY of praise could not have been more sincere and straight from the heart. There are a great many people who are not satisfied with dissertations of a voluminous character upon matters and things of supposed interest to the interior student. This class of reader is looking for the ESSENCE of truth and cannot give the time to digging through a hard and thick shell. We trust that it will not be long, however, before the ORACLE will be increased in its number of pages, and will thus be enabled to give a greater diversity of thought, and make it possible for its many friends of a journalistic turn of mind to contribute an article now and then.